



For Immediate Release

For more information contact:
Rhonda Sanders 501.399.9999
rsanders@arhungeralliance.org

Statewide Hunger Relief Organizations Applaud Senator Lincoln's Appointment

LITTLE ROCK, AR (September 10, 2009) – The news of Senator Lincoln's appointment as chairperson of the Senate Agriculture Committee yesterday was met with enthusiasm from the hunger relief community in Arkansas.

“Senator Lincoln has been a champion for hunger relief in Arkansas and in the nation,” says Rhonda Sanders, executive director of the Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance. “She has supported expanded funding for Food Stamps and the Emergency Food Assistance Program (commodities) during the recent recession. She fully understands the role federal programs play in Arkansas to help families bridge the gap between their income and their expenses.”

The Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance is an association of hunger relief organizations and hunger advocates from across the state working together to increase access to nutritious foods for Arkansans in need.

-more-

Hunger Relief Organizations Applaud Senator Lincoln's Appointment
Add 1

“Senator Lincoln has always been a supporter of our work and is a leader in reducing hunger. Now as chairperson of the senate committee that has responsibility for many of the nation’s feeding and nutrition programs she will be able to help ensure those programs receive the congressional support they need,” Sanders said.

As a result of Senator Lincoln’s deep commitment to ending hunger she co-sponsored the founding of the Congressional Hunger Caucus in 2004. State Representative Kathy Webb followed the Senator’s lead and spearheaded the establishment of the Arkansas Legislative Hunger Caucus in 2007.

“Senator Lincoln has served as a role model for us at the state level on the issue of hunger. Her work on the Congressional Hunger Caucus was the inspiration for the Arkansas Legislative Hunger Caucus. The hunger caucus has been a vehicle to bring together all legislators in support of an issue that affects all of our constituents. I congratulate Senator Lincoln and am confident she will continue to raise awareness and take action to eliminate hunger in this country in her new role,” said Rep. Webb. The Arkansas Legislative Hunger Caucus now has 81 members out of the 135 state representatives and senators and has the bi-partisan leadership of Senators John Paul Capps and Ruth Whitaker and Representatives Steve Cole and Rick Green.

According to Senator Lincoln’s statement yesterday one of her first priorities is to address the reauthorization of the federal child nutrition program. This legislation funds critical programs such as school lunch program and the summer feeding program.

-more-

Hunger Relief Organizations Applaud Senator Lincoln's Appointment
Add 2

Rhonda Sanders said, "Being a poor rural state Arkansas has a great need for these programs. Senator Lincoln understands the needs we have in Arkansas and will use this knowledge and understanding to advocate for low-income families across the nation as the Child Nutrition Act moves through her committee."

The mission of the Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance is to reduce hunger through a unified effort to provide hunger relief, education and advocacy. For more information on the Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance and hunger relief efforts in Arkansas, please visit www.arhungeralliance.org.

#